

DATE:

**MAY 23 2003**

**SUBJECT:** Documentation of the Verbal Authorization for a Change in Scope of Response for the FY2003 Removal Actions at the Bossert Manufacturing Site, Utica, Oneida County, New York

**FROM:** Jack D. Harmon, On-Scene Coordinator  
Removal Action Branch

**TO:** George Pavlou, Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

**THRU:** Richard C. Salkie, Chief  
Removal Action Branch

Site ID #: S7

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Memorandum is to document the verbal authorization for a Change in Scope in continuing removal activities at the Bossert Manufacturing Site (Site) in Utica, Oneida County, New York. On May 21, 2003, William McCabe, Deputy Director, Emergency and Remedial Response Division, provided verbal authorization of \$50,000 for additional mitigation contacting work to allow for the transportation and disposal of PCB wastes.

Removal activities accomplished under the prior given verbal authorization (May 2, 2003), included demolition of a concrete pad with very high levels of PCBs and placing the demolition debris from the concrete pad as well as soil commingled with the debris in containers. In addition, approximately 150 wooden timbers were broken into manageable pieces and placed into roll-off containers. Samples collected for disposal purposes revealed levels of PCBs in the

**CONCURRENCES**

Name: Bossert

Init: jdh

Date: 05/02/03

Filename: AM#0233

Symbol	ERRD-RAB	ERRD-RAB	ORC-NYSCUP	ERRD-DD	ERRD-D			
Surname	Harmon	Salkie	Simon	McCabe	Pavlou			
Date	5/23/03	5/23/03						

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concrete debris and wood timbers at 3,000 ppm and 130 ppm, respectively. Presently staged on the Site are approximately 120 tons of concrete debris contained inside six roll-off containers and 250 cubic yards of wood timbers contained in nine roll-off containers. Arrangements are underway to have these roll-off containers shipped to a permitted disposal facility during the week of May 26, 2003.

The Site is located at 1002 Oswego Street in the City of Utica, New York. The EPA has conducted two removal actions at the Site, the first in 1987-1988 and the second in 1997-1998. Previous activities included extensive actions to remove hazardous wastes identified inside the former building, temporary storage of PCB contaminated materials in secure "vault" areas within the buildings and decontamination actions throughout the Site. The previous Removal Actions addressed the high levels of PCBs, primarily within the interior of the buildings, including the removal and off-site disposal of solid and liquid wastes as well as cleaning the contamination from floors and walls by pressure washing and other techniques. Based upon the proximity of the contaminated slab, it is likely that it was located within the vault area which was used to store the PCB contaminated materials.

The City of Utica discovered the elevated concentrations of PCBs during demolition of the buildings. The demolition debris was tested for PCB contamination by O'Brien and Gere, a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) contractor, who characterized all the debris piles. The only areas with significantly elevated PCB concentration (up to 10,000 ppm of PCBs) included the slab, a small portion of the debris pile that is adjacent to the slab and approximately 150 contaminated timbers. The NYSDEC requested the EPA to participate in removing the materials with elevated levels of PCBs. The Site has had a considerable amount of public interest over the past months focusing on the concerns of PCB exposure by contaminated dust and run off from the Site. The Bossert Site is located in a predominantly residential neighborhood.

The threats to human health through continued exposure to elevated concentrations of PCBs by airborne dust, runoff and by direct contact of casual users of the site justifies restarting the removal action to properly address the materials contaminated with very high levels of PCBs. The extremely high concentrations poses an immediate risk to the health of the people that reside within the area. Mitigation of these threats will eliminate the emergency conditions that are being created by exposure to this contamination.

The scope of work proposed will remove PCB wastes generated by removal activities covered by the previous verbal authorization. Once this work is completed, no further removal activities are required. An Action Memorandum, fully documenting the removal restart, has been drafted.